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Date: 2/22/2018 4:01:57 PM
Subject: RE: Draft of news release about the SCS school safety taskforce

Hello,

Thanks for a quick review of the news release from yesterday's meeting.

Some general quotes have been provided for Mayor Strickland and Superintendent Hopson. Feel free to change as needed.

THANKS everyone.

Steve

February 22, 2018

Shelby County Mayor Mark Luttrell Convenes School Safety Taskforce

Shelby County Mayor Mark H. Luttrell, Jr. has convened a taskforce about enhancing safety at Shelby County Schools.

"This is an urgent matter for our community. It's a critical issue that needs a comprehensive approach. That's why I asked the top leaders of law enforcement and related agencies to join me in this effort," said Mayor Luttrell.

"Shootings and other critical incidents are happening far too often at our schools. We must initiate this discussion without delay to help minimize the dangers to our children," said Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland.

Taskforce members include:

- Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland
- Shelby County Schools Superintendent Dorsey Hopson
- Memphis Police Director Mike Rallings
- Shelby County Schools Director of Student Services Gerald Darling
- Shelby County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Floyd Bonner
- Shelby County Office of Preparedness Director Dale Lane
- United States Attorney for Western District of Tennessee Michael Dunavant
- Shelby County District Attorney General Amy Weirich
- Memphis and Shelby Crime Commission President Bill Gibbons

"I'm pleased Mayor Luttrell convened this group to set some immediate and long-term goals about school safety. We must reassure students, parents, faculty and staff that our facilities are as safe as possible," said Shelby County Schools Superintendent Dorsey Hopson.

Among the discussion topics at the group's initial meeting yesterday afternoon:

1. Strengthening security at all Shelby County School campuses
2. Providing threat-assessment and readiness training for students, faculty and staff
3. Enhancing collaboration among law enforcement and school security officers
4. Ensuring a coordinated and swift response about threatening social media posts
5. Continuing to provide free active shooter training for citizens and community groups

Safety at Shelby County Schools will be the primarily focus of the taskforce. However, recommendations from the group will be shared among the other public school systems, private and charter schools throughout the county.

(End of Release)

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